

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W

----- 089932

R 281415Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5598

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1305

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE, IR

SUBJECT: YEMEN/IRANIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING MAY 27 DINNER, FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAG TOLD ME THAT IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR, HUSSEIN SABITI, HE HAD ASKED AMBASSADOR TO ASCERTAIN WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF YEMENI REQUESTS TO IRAN FOR ASSISTANCE MADE DURING RECENT VISIT TO TEHRAN BY MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDU SAID. AL-ASNAG SAID THAT THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT ABSENCE OF SHAH FROM TEHRAN IS DOUBTLESS HOLDING THINGS UP BUT HE WAS SURE IRAN WILL SOON BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENTS WHICH INTER ALIA INCLUDE A MAJOR ROAD PROJECT IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.

2. AL-ASNAG ALSO SUGGESTED TO AMBASSADOR SABITI THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA IF YEMENI PRIME MINISTER ABD AL-GHANI PAID A VISIT TO TEHRAN AS A WAY OF UNDERSCORING THE EXCELLENT STATE OF YEMENI/IRANIAN RELATIONS AS WELL AS OF GETTING SOME FURTHER MOVEMENT ON IRANIAN-SPONSORED PROJECTS IN YEMEN. THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO CONVEY THIS SUGGESTION TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. AL-ASNAG WONDERED IF THE US EMBASSY IN TEHRAN MIGHT
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ALSO TAKE A READING ON THE MATTER OF IRANIAN ASSISTANCE

TO YEMEN AS WELL AS TO PROBE TO SEE IF A VISIT BY THE
YEMENI PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE USEFUL AND WELCOME.
AL-ASNAG EMPHASIZED THAT YEMEN WISHES TO HAVE GOOD
RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND ANY HELP US CAN GIVE YEMEN IN
PURSUING THIS GOAL WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

4. COMMENT: IF EMBASSY TEHRAN BELIEVES IT APPROPRIATE
I WOULD URGE THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO HELP YEMENI/
IRANIAN RELATIONS ALONG. CERTAINLY IT IS IN BOTH US
AND IRANIAN INTERESTS TO SEE A STRONG, STABLE AND
MODERATE YEMEN EMERGE AT A TIME WHEN THE SOUTHERN RED
SEA AREA SEEMS TO BE SUCCUMBING TO THE BLANDISHMENTS
OF EXTREMISM. AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER, AL-HAMDI
AND HIS REGIME IN OUR OPINION APPEAR TO AFFORD THE BEST
CHANCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A YEMEN AND,
THEREFORE, DESERVE THE SUPPORT OF OUR FRIENDS IN THE
REGIONS.
SCOTES

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